

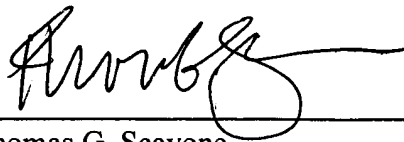
REMARKS

Claims 1 through 13 are in the case. Original claim 1 through 9 have been allowed. Claims 10 through 16 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) in view of Barnett, et al.

Claim 1 has been amended to correct a minor error in the form of the claim. Claims 10, 11 and 13 have been amended, and claims 12 and 14 through 16 have been cancelled. Reconsideration of the amended application is requested.

Applicants believe the amended claims 10, 11 and 13 define a novel and non-obvious advance in the art. The invention as now claimed includes the implementation of a coupon notification center which receives coupon and consumer data and which thereby analyzes and validates coupons as selected and redeemed by consumers using the system. Barnett neither teaches nor suggests the method as now claimed. An early allowance is therefore requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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